

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 23-24 have been cancelled without prejudice, claim 25 has been placed into independent form including limitations of claims 23 and 24, and claim 28 has been amended to depend on new independent claim 25.

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (Cancelled.)

13. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a switching device coupled between the electrically powered device and a power source, said switching device to control power to the device, responsive to the control signals.

14. (Previously Presented): An apparatus to monitor usage of an electrically powered device, comprising:

a circuit coupled to the device to provide a power output of the device;

an analog to digital converter coupled to receive the power output and convert the same to digital form; and

a controller to receive a user input, process the user input by establishing communication with a remotely located device to request approval of a financial transaction, and generate control signals in response to receiving approval, the controller includes a database of power profiles of the device and receives the digital form of the power output, compares the digital form of the power output to the power profiles, and monitors the operation of the electrically powered device by suspending a charge for usage of the device if the digital form of the power output indicates a halt condition.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the database of power profiles includes normal operation power profiles, idle operation power profiles, and halt condition power profiles.

16. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the controller continues to suspend charging for usage of the device as long as the device is in halt condition.

17. (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the switching device is a relay.

18. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the circuit is a current to voltage converter.

19. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the electrically powered device is a copier.

20. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the electrically powered device is a laser printer.

21. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the circuit is an ammeter.

22-24. (Cancelled.)

25. (Currently Amended):

A The method of claim 23, wherein comprising:
monitoring an output of an electrically powered device; and
comparing the output to a database of operating profiles for the electrically powered
device to detect an abnormal condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically
powered device is in the abnormal condition, the database of operating profiles includes a
plurality of power usage profiles being regular operating power profiles and abnormal operating
power profiles, each abnormal operating power profile to denote an abnormal condition.

26. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein each power usage profile is a function of amperage and time.

27. (Previously Presented): A method comprising:
monitoring an output of an electrically powered device; and
comparing the output to a database of operating profiles including a plurality of power usage profiles, each power usage profile being a function of amperage and time, for the electrically powered device to detect an abnormal condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically powered device is experiencing the abnormal condition being a paper jam.

28. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 2425, wherein the first condition is a catastrophic condition.

29. (Previously Presented): A software module embodied for execution by a controller, the software module comprising:
software to monitor an output of an electrically powered device; and
software to compare the output to a plurality of power usage profiles for the electrically powered device to detect a first condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically powered device is experiencing the first condition being a paper jam.

30. (Previously Presented): A software module embodied for execution by a controller, the software module comprising:
software to monitor an output of an electrically powered device; and
software to compare the output to a plurality of power usage profiles for the electrically powered device to detect a first condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically powered device is in the first condition, the electrically powered device is placed in the first condition in response to an abnormal operating condition.

31. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 40, wherein the abnormal condition is a paper jam.

32. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 29, wherein each power usage profile is a function of amperage and time.

33. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 30 further comprising software to record the plurality of power usage profiles.

34. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 29 further comprising a user interface software to enable programmability of conditions to adjust billing charges for usage of the electrically powered device including the first condition.

35. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 29, wherein the electrically powered device is a printer.

36. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 30, wherein the electrically powered device is an appliance.

37. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 30 further comprising software to record the plurality of power usage profiles.

38. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 30, wherein each power usage profile is a function of amperage and time.

39. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 30 further comprising a user interface software to enable programmability of conditions to adjust billing charges for usage of the electrically powered device including the first condition.

40. (Previously Presented): The software module of claim 30, wherein the electrically powered device is a printer.